

Garamendi speaks at COS

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BY Kimberlina Rocha

Lt. Governor John Garamendi and local education leaders appeared at College of the Sequoias Wednesday to discuss the potential effects of the governor's proposed \$4.8 billion cut to education funding.

Garamendi was joined by Visalia Unified School District Superintendent Stan Carrizosa, COS President Bill Scroggins, COS Associated Student Body President Frank Trejo and representatives of the classified and teachers unions. The forum, "Kindergarten through PhD: Standing Together to Protect Public Education," was held in professor Christian Anderson's Economics 40 class.

"The door is being rapidly closed on people wanting to get an education and take advantage of the educational opportunities California has to offer," Garamendi told students in the packed classroom.

Community colleges statewide face a 4 percent cut in per-student funding. That could mean fewer courses and support services for students, speakers said.

Garamendi encouraged students to write e-mails or letters to local legislators, explaining how the proposed cuts could affect them.